



WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Division of Workforce Solutions
Bureau of Partner Services

**TO: Economic Support Supervisors
Economic Support Lead Workers
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators
W-2 Agencies**

FROM: Amy Mendel-Clemens
CARES Call Center
Policy & Systems Communications Section

**SUBJECT: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM
TREATMENT OF INTERIM
ASSISTANCE AND GENERAL RELIEF**

BPS OPERATIONS MEMO

No.: 02-20

File: 2820.1
2821
2845

Date: 3/13/2002

Non W-2 ☒ **W-2** ☐ **CC** ☐

PRIORITY: MEDIUM

CROSS REFERENCE: Food Stamp Handbook (FSH) Appendices:
01.03.02; 11.04.22; 12.02.35; 12.04.00; 12.04.01

EFFECTIVE DATE: APRIL 1, 2002

BACKGROUND

The State of Wisconsin no longer administers a General Relief (GR) Program. Some local agencies have continued to administer an Interim Assistance (IA) program for individuals that have applied for SSI. Some local agencies have also continued to administer a general relief program with some funding from the State Relief Block Grant.

OLD POLICY

Recipients of GR payments were categorically eligible individuals for food stamps. Categorically eligible FS participants are not tested against asset or income limits in the FS benefit eligibility determination.

NEW POLICY

Eligibility for, or receipt of, IA or locally administered GR funds does not confer categorical eligibility to these individuals for FS.

In addition, since IA payments made to, or for, an individual are repaid to the local agency upon receipt of the individual's initial lump sum SSI payment, IA is excluded as countable income in

the FS eligibility determination. These payments are considered to be loans for FS eligibility purposes.

In agencies that have a general relief program, the payments from the GR program must continue to be budgeted as unearned income, unless they can otherwise be disregarded by policies stated in the FSH. For example, some vendor payments are disregarded. (FSH Appendix 12.04.01).

CARES PROCEDURES

CARES screen ANBR must be coded "N" in the GR field to prevent a FS categorical eligibility determination for these individuals. A service request has been made to automate CARES to default to an "N" entry for this field.

Workers are not required to identify and change every GR/IA case by 4/1/02. However, effective 4/1/02, workers are required to make sure appropriate changes are made as part of any FS benefit redetermination (certification, recertification or change) on a case that includes a GR or IA recipient to ensure that income and categorical eligibility determinations reflect this policy.

CONTACT

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Note: Email contacts are preferred. Thank you.